1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

000 the investigator can be blamed. If such is the case, he will welcome their being brought to his attention.

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122 I arrived in Georgetown October 26, 1932. Five days of highly organized activity were spent in securing supplies and staff for the expedition. Without the help of the Governor, Sir Edward Denham, and Dr. W. E. Roth, curator of the Georgetown Museum, and many other government officials, arrangements could not have been completed in the short time which was allowed for them. However, on the first of November I departed on the bi-weekly coastal steamer for Marbaruma, accompanied by Cedric Farnum, a guide, Henry Ewing, the cook, and about a ton of provisions and camping equipment. At Marbaruma, the government compound near the mouth of the Barima River, we took possession of a tent boat with outboard motor, furnished by the government, and proceeded up the Waini River and into the lower reaches of the Barama where we secured the services of Alec William, who acted as interpreter and crew foreman throughout the expedition, and six other Carib men who served as boat hands. Delay in the arrival of the rains impeded progress on the river which in low water is blocked by sandbars and fallen logs. During one period of ten days, for instance, we covered a river distance of only eighteen miles. The tent boat was abandoned at Kariako and the rest of the journey up the river, over the falls to Sawari settlement, was accomplished in korials or dugout canoes. Later the journey to the vicinity of the headwaters of the Barama near the Venezuelan frontier was completed by trail.

Rice, flour, salt meat, condiments, medicines, technical equipment, and trade goods were carried. A large part of the provisioning for the party was obtained by hunting and the securing of field products from the Indians. Until Mr. Morgan Hills joined me in February I happened to be the only white man in the Barama country.

133 The drainage basin of the Barama is covered throughout by rather thick jungle of which the mora tree is the most conspicuous feature. Along the river banks the forest averages eighty to a hundred feet in height (Plate 1). The river follows a meandering and convoluted course; its height varies greatly with the rainfall,

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

and as far as Bede's the influence of the tide is felt. The surface 133
of the land rises gradually southwestward to the low divide which marks the Venezuelan frontier. The river country may be divided into an upper and lower part at the Great Falls at Towakaima, which have hitherto formed a barrier to tent boat navigation and consequently to outside penetration of any extent. On the lower Barama three trading posts or "bush shops" are located, respectively, at Kokerite, Massawini, and Towakaima, serving the Indians and the handful of negro prospectors who roam the bush in search of gold. Throughout the area game and fish are usually [136]
plentiful.

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interpreter, an expert woodsman and boatman, and a loyal friend; Henry Ewing, whose appetising menus dispelled the fatigue of many a hard day and whose loyalty, practical knowledge of bush

1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33)1936 SR9 Carib SR9

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JOHN GILLIN.

2: Adams E-4,5 (1970-1971) 1973 SR9 Carib SR9
(1932-1971) Barama River

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